2. (AMENDED) The frame according to claim 1, wherein a second one or more of said channels is configured to store only complete packets from a fixed bandwidth source.

7. (AMENDED) The frame according to claim 5 [6], wherein said frame further comprises one or more trailer [location] locators each configured to identify either (i) an end of [one] said one or more offset locators [and] or (ii) an end [one] of said one or more data packets.

9. (AMENDED) The frame according to claim 1 [7], wherein [said] a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

10. (AMENDED) The frame according to claim 1, wherein each of said one or more data packets is selected from a group consisting of IP packets, Packet-Over-SONET (POS), PPP packets, ATM cells, G.702-based PDH (T1/T3) packets, SRP packets, Frame Relay packets, and other appropriate packet data types.

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12. (AMENDED) The frame according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said one or more data packets are selected on a packet by packet basis.

13.   (AMENDED)   An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each node configured to receive and/or transmit one or more of a plurality of frames, wherein each of said plurality of frames is configured to store <u>one or more</u> data packets in a plurality of channels, wherein one or more of said channels is configured to store one or more fragments of said <u>one or more</u> data packets separated by an offset pointer.

15.   (AMENDED)   The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein [said frame comprises one or more packets, each comprising] <u>each of said one or more data packets comprise</u> one or more offset locators configured to point to a next fragment of said one or more fragments.

16.   (AMENDED)   The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein each of said one or more <u>data</u> packets <u>further</u> comprise one or more header locators configured to identify said next fragment.

17.   (AMENDED)   The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein each of said one or more <u>data</u> packets <u>further</u> comprise one or more trailer locations configured to identify either (i) an end of [one] said one or more offset locators [and] <u>or</u> (ii) an end [one] of <u>said one or more</u> data packets.

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19. (AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein [said] a payload portion of each of said one or more data packets is configured to be reloaded with a partial data load.

20. (AMENDED) A method for transferring data comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving and/or transmitting one or more of a plurality of frames;

(B) configuring each of said frames to store one or more data packets in a plurality of channels; and

(C) configuring said channels to store one or more fragments of said one or more data packets, each separated and linked by an offset pointer.

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.